

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN HELSINKI
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 8089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER

1. IN HALF-HOUR MEETING ON JULY 31, SECRETARY TOLD CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOVPEK THAT WE ARE IN FAVOR OF IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE TRADE AREA. HE EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT AFFECTING CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SAID WE HAVE TO SEE IF WE CAN NEGOTIATE A PACKAGE WITH CONGRESS AND THEN PRESENT IT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CHNOUPEK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S PERSONAL ATTITUDE IN CALLING ON CONGRESS TO REEVALUATE ASPECTS OF THE TRADE ACT.

2. CHNOUPEK SAID THERE WERE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WHICH WERE BLOCKED BY THE TRADE ACT. AS EXAMPLES, HE CITED A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT, THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, AND A CULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED WE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT. HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF DIVIDED FAMILIES, AND CHNOUPEK AGREED TO LOOK INTO
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THE SITUATION. CHNOUPEK ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF A

VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN IN THE NEAR
FUTURE TO DISCUSS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS.
SECRETARY REPLIED WE WOULD CONSIDER IT AND HAD NO
OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE. ATMOSPHERE CORDIAL.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, SECRETARY STATED IN
OPENING REMARKS:

"I HAD A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF
CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BULGARIA, AND
I EXPRESSED TO BOTH COUNTRIES, BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS,
THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO --THERE IS NO OBSTACLE
ON THE UNITED STATES' SIDE TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS.

"THEY EXPRESSED THEIR STRONG DESIRE TO MAKE PROGRESS
IN IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
THEIR COUNTRIES. WE DECIDED TO START TALKS ON
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES AND OTHER SUBJECTS
THAT MIGHT LEAD GRADUALLY TO AN IMPROVEMENT OF OUR
RELATIONSHIPS."

4. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION FOR THE TIME
BEING. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

5. FYI: DEPARTMENT WILL BE DEVELOPING SCENARIO
FOR DEALING WITH EAST EUROPEANS IN AFTERMATH OF COMPLETION OF US-
ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.
END FYI. KISSINGER

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